

through the NCANP website and publications, and through the various activities of NCANP members, including public speaking engagements.

The members of NCANP work with businesses, healthcare and educational institutions, as well as other organizations to further the health and well being of North Carolina residents through public and health-care-professional education.

Once licensure is secured in North Carolina, the NCANP like similar organizations in other states will provide continuing education services, including seminars, conferences, webinars, and other live and recorded educational events for naturopathic physicians and other health care professionals.

Over the past 10 years, members of NCANP have actively urged North Carolina lawmakers to enact a licensure law that would regulate the practice of naturopathic medicine. Fifteen states and several American and Canadian provinces currently have laws that license naturopathic doctors. The earliest licensure was enacted in the state of Washington in 1919 and the most recent state to enact a licensure law for naturopathic doctors is the state of Minnesota in 2009. Organized efforts are ongoing in most states to license and regulate the practice of naturopathic medicine.

As primary care providers, trained as general practitioners, naturopathic doctors are increasingly becoming a partner in the establishment and facilitation of an integrated health care delivery model. The National Institute of Health has documented the use of complementary/alternative medicine reporting that approximately 38 percent of adults (about 4 in 10) and approximately 12 percent of children (about 1 in 9) are using some form of complementary/alternative medicine. (Source: Barnes PM, Bloom B, Nahin R. *CDC National Health Statistics Report #12. Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use Among Adults and Children: United States, 2007. December 2008.* Naturopathic doctors are the experts in many of these complementary and alternative health care modalities. North Carolina's laws and regulations should be updated to accommodate the rising demand for natural medicine. Updating laws and regulations relative to